

Payfile

The Federal Diary

100,000 Face Loss Of Retroactive Pay Under New Raise

By Jerry Kluttz

A last-minute switch of signals will prevent retroactive pay raises under the Morrison bill for thousands of Federal employees.



Those bypassed are upwards of 100,000 non-classifieds whose salaries are fixed by heads of their agencies. Senate-House conferees scrapped a proposal, sought by the White House and tentatively approved earlier by the conferees, to give agency heads power to make pay raises effective back to the first pay period in July.

Conferees feared the provision would set off a parliamentary hassle on the House floor that would have delayed final congressional approval of the pay raise bill. Legislative experts advised the conferees that the provision would be subject to attack as neither the original House nor Senate bill carried a similar section.

A 1955 ruling by the Comptroller General holds that agency heads have no authority to make salary increases for their employees effective retroactively. The White House sought to overcome this decision in order to give non-classifieds back-pay raises like classifieds, postals and other groups of Federal employees.

As matters now stand higher salaries for non-classifieds will be effective at the beginnings

of their first pay periods after the bill is signed into law, which could be today.

Many here are among those who face the loss of retroactive pay. They are in the Central Intelligence Agency, National Security Agency, National Aeronautics and Space Agency, Atomic Energy Commission, the Government Printing Office and all jobs under what is known as Public Law 313.

Also, local employees of the Army's National Guard, Selective Service and Tennessee Valley Authority will not get back pay as well as a scattering of employees on Capitol Hill and in agencies such as Agriculture, Interior, Defense, etc.

Members of Congress are aware of the injustice and the Senate Post Office and Civil Service Committee hopes to attach the authority as a rider to a non-controversial House-approved bill and get it enacted into law.

Incidentally, FBI employees are under the Classification Act and are not non-classifieds as I noted here the other day. They are exempt from Civil Service.